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Sandown Police Host First of Four Community Meetings

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

SANDOWN – This month the Sandown Police Department will be holding the first of four monthly meetings aimed at building better communication with the public. The Community Outreach Program has the town sectioned off into quadrants and the department setting up a time to meet with all those in each section.

The first meeting takes place on Monday, Jan. 9, at 6:30 p.m., and all residents of the specified area (listed below) are asked to attend. The goal is for not only the police to share some of the things they've seen in the area but also to take input from residents about their concerns and questions.

Have you seen suspicious activity, but aren't comfortable with calling the department? Don't want to

bother officers with concerns that may be false alarms? It's not uncommon, say officers, and they're looking at ways to better communicate with residents. Nobody should be afraid to call and it's not wasting the officer's time, said Police Chief Joe Gordon. They'd rather go out on a false alarm than find out after the fact they missed something.

As part of the meetings, the department will be looking to find two residents willing to be liaisons, or section leaders, between their section of town and the department. Those people will help streamline information and provide a person for neighbors to go to, outside the department.

Officer William Pica said residents might feel more comfortable calling a neighborhood leader, and hopes it may help streamline communication. He added that

the program will give both citizens and officers a more informed idea as to what to look out for.

Sgt. Scott Wood said there's a lot going on in town that residents may not know about, and the program was a way to share that information.

All meetings will be held at the Ed Garvey Recreation Facility. The first will be held on Jan. 9 at 6:30 p.m. and will include the north-west section of town.

Residents on the following streets are asked to meet and voice their needs and concerns: Abby Lane, Allen Street, April Avenue, Bingham Circle, Brian Street, Celeste Terrace, Cobblestone Lane, Compromise Lane, Country Acres Road, Cricket Lane, Cross Road, Dee Dee Drive, Dillon Avenue, Elizabeth Road, Frances Street, Fremont Road (north of Sargent

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Proposed Police Station Price Tag Surprises Committee

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD – After spending months questioning every square foot and item for the proposed new police station, the Police Station Committee members found themselves dismayed at the cost figure provided by the professional architects and engineers they had brought in.

The committee had hoped to present a smaller, more cost-effective proposal to the voters, and the number they were looking at Wednesday night, Dec. 28, wasn't what they had expected.

The figure that Kyle Barker of Barker Architects

came up with for the station is \$1,538,300 for a 7,500-square-foot building at \$140 per square foot.

According to the Hampstead Town Reports, the first proposal presented to the voters was for a bond amount of \$2,397,550 for a 12,450-square-foot building at \$160.83 per square foot. The second proposal in 2008 was for a bond amount of \$2,271,977 for an 11,371-square-foot building at \$165.68 per square foot. The 2010 proposal was for a bond amount of \$1,996,721 for a 9,980-square-foot building at \$175.78 a square foot.

All of those proposals were defeated at the polls.

The committee had hop-

ed to bring the completed building proposal in at \$1.1 million, and to a man they were shocked and disappointed at last week's news. They discussed the figure and Chairman Jim Stewart said Barker had said that whatever figure they decided on, he would make the building happen by reducing the size.

"Kyle has stated that he can alter the building plan to fit the amount agreed upon," Stewart said.

Police Chief Joe Beaudoin said he thought the committee ought to stay close to the amount the architect had given and that they needed to find out from

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NICK OF TIME

Firefighters from Hampstead, Derry, Salem and Danville work on a stubborn chimney fire at the 212 Stage Road home of Amy Marcello on Friday, Dec. 30, shortly after noon. The fire started in the woodstove and burned through the chimney and into the wall. A passerby noticed the smoke and reported the fire. See story page 3.

Photo by Penny Williams

Road Bond May Be On Table

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

CHESTER - Road agent Mike Oleson is looking to bring a bond warrant article to next Town Meeting for the same road work he's been trying to get done since he came on as road agent.

Oleson brought the suggestion forward to the selectmen on Dec. 29 and it received positive remarks, the selectmen noting that the town had to start getting major road projects done before they became out of control.

The road agent suggest-

ed a \$6 million bond, but selectmen were pondering doubling that.

"There's no sense in trying to change it (the plan brought forward in past years). It's the best option," said Oleson, noting his frustration with trying to repackage the work to appease voters.

At the last Town Meeting, Oleson asked for \$2.5 million for repairs to East Derry Road and the area of town including Jennifer, Holman, Parker, Rand and Great Oak. The year before that, \$350,000 was sought for smaller repairs to East Derry. The year before that,

\$1.5 million was asked for Shepard Home, Hanson, Jennifer, Rand, Holman, Parker, Birch, Old Sandown, Rod and Gun Club and Pulpit Rock roads. And the year before that, \$1.4 million was sought for East Derry Road and others.

At last Town Meeting, the work that may again be presented this year received 124 yes votes and 64 no votes. It needed 125 yes votes to pass. After it failed, Oleson was dubious about bringing anything forward again, but has since heard from numerous residents who want the roads fixed

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Rescinding SB 2 for Chester School Might Be on Warrant Again

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

CHESTER - Though the school board is in favor of rescinding SB (Senate Bill) 2, according to superintendent Jim Gaylord, any efforts to change the district back to the traditional town meeting can't come from the board.

Although the board had discussed moving forward with a district-backed warrant article, such will not be the case this year. And while no citizen petitions had come in by the end of the month, discussions with the budget committee might prompt one to come in soon.

At the Wednesday, Dec. 28, meeting between the school board and the budget committee, Rhonda Lamphere asked the school board about the potential

for an official warrant article on the matter but was informed such would not be forthcoming. But with a warrant article deadline of Jan. 10, there was some discussion on the possibility for a member of the committee to put one together as a citizen.

Both groups noted discontent with the system. Established in 2008, it passed by just three votes. Since then it has been challenged, and during the last district meeting, it was narrowly kept in place after a citizen petition failed to get the three-fifths majority it needed. It required 276 'Yes' votes, and received 239. 'No' votes totaled 220.

In the traditional form of District Meeting, voters take part in a session that allows them to change warrant articles by voting their

appropriations up or down or changing their wording, and then voting for their passage immediately afterward. In the traditional District Meeting, each registered voter's hand or ballot is counted that night, and whether or not a measure has passed is immediately known.

In SB 2, however, the process of changing or amending warrant articles and then voting on them is separated into two sessions - the Deliberative Session, where language in any and all warrant articles can be amended, and the second session, where those articles are voted on through secret ballot.

Proponents of the SB 2 system argue that the secret ballot voting in a separate session allows for increased voter participation, while

many in Chester who have disagreed with the measure have stated that the traditional form allows for better informed voters.

Both the committee and board have noted that voter participation hasn't increased since the adoption of SB2 and bemoaned what they consider a less informed electorate.

Though not the numbers promised, turnout looks to have grown since SB 2 began, with 493 voters coming to the polls in 2011, 378 the year before, and 278 in 2009.

Those numbers are much reduced when the Deliberative Session turnout is looked at. It is also notoriously hard to extrapolate trends from numbers alone, as everything from the contents of the warrant to the weather have been

cited as explanation of voter turnout.

Members noted that with the traditional form of government questions can be asked by voters and information given right before the actual vote is made, and suspected that with SB 2, voters weren't sure what they were voting on.

Some used the example of last year's SB 2 rescind initiative as proof, stating that some came up after the vote and noted confusion about the wording of the article, and though they wanted to rescind it, the wording was such that they voted the opposite of their desires.

The board and committee also noted a compressed time frame for budget creation. The budget this year was begun in August, but won't be utilized until the

2012-2013 year, prompting some to question how accurate budget forecasting months in advance can be.

As drawbacks, Lamphere said SB 2 cost more than the traditional form of government because of the added election, and noted the district's annual report - and its crucial information - came out after the Deliberative Session, after the warrant was set in stone.

School board chair Royal Richardson said that at the start of the SB 2 discussion in Chester, the board was content to take a passive role, but has been completely dissatisfied with its implementation.

"Nobody has come up to me and said how glad they were that we have SB 2," said Richardson. "We'd be in favor of removing it."

Chester Shed Fire Complicated by Stores of Ammunition

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

CHESTER - Firefighters responded to a shed fire on the last day of 2011 and found a blaze that was rife with explosions.

Chester Fire responded to 749 Candia Road around 5:30 p.m. for the blaze in a

192-square-foot outbuilding. Reports were that ammunition was kept in the building, and when firefighters arrived on scene, those reports proved trustworthy.

The electrified building was used both as storage for vehicles (a four wheeler, tractors, and a motorcycle) and also as a reloading shed

for firearms. There were guns, bullets, multiple barrels of black powder and 17 gallons of gasoline stored within.

According to fire chief Rich Antoine, the fire was fully involved when he arrived on scene. The roof was already gone at that point and explosions had mostly leveled the structure. Neighbors called 911, as the owners were away at the time of the fire.

There was burning

debris all over the yard, said Antoine, and while many minor explosions sounded throughout their time fighting the blaze, there were also several major ones. Including the black powder and other flammable materials, the tires on the motorcycle, ATV and tractors blew up and magnesium on those vehicles burn very hot and when they come into contact with water, they explode.

No injuries were reported, despite the hazardous

conditions.

It took approximately 45 minutes to get the fire under control, but firefighters didn't leave the scene completely until about 9 p.m., after efforts were made to ensure that the blaze would not spring back up.

The fire is under investigation, but Antoine said all signs indicate that it started accidentally. He noted that the individual who owned the shed had been using it to reload ammunition for years.

An above-ground pool near the building was destroyed, but the home on the property was not damaged, according to reports.

Including the vehicles, firearms and other equipment in the completely destroyed shed, Antoine estimated that the monetary loss from the relatively small fire was substantial.

No mutual aid was called. The property on Candia Road is listed as owned by Alan and Janet Manuel.



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Hampstead Fire Department Seeks Grant for Tanker

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD – Following a pattern he established almost as soon as he took over as Chief of the Hampstead Fire Department, Michael Carrier is going after another grant to upgrade the department's rolling stock. This time he hopes to be able to retire the department's aging tanker and replace it with a new one paid for primarily with a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant.

Carrier said he planned to follow the same process he did when he went after a grant for the Quint.

"If we are fortunate to receive the grant, then we

will go out to bid as we did for the Quint," he said. "We are looking for a minimum of a 2,500-gallon water tank with a 750-gallon-per-minute pump. The color scheme would be like the Quint, as we are trying to get the department's vehicle color consistently red."

The grant for the Quint was received in May of 2010. Carrier had applied for a \$700,000 grant from the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program administered by the Department of Homeland Security in cooperation with the Department's U.S. Fire Administration.

A Quint is a quintuple combination vehicle - a pumper, a fire service apparatus that serves the dual purpose of an engine and a

ladder truck. The name quint is derived from the Latin prefix meaning five, and refers to the five functions a Quint vehicle provides: pump, water tank, fire hose, aerial device, and ground ladders.

The Quint took the place of three of the department's trucks, which were then retired. The Fire Department had to pay \$25,000 from the Fire Department Capital Reserve Equipment Fund, but for that money, it replaced assets of more than \$1.5 million.

"It is our intent to replace the existing tanker with a new purchase so we don't run into unexpected issues with a used or refurbished vehicle," Carrier

said. "The cost of the tanker varies, depending on what type of cab and chassis you purchase, but it is our intent to simply make this vehicle a water tender, which brings a larger amount of water to an emergency scene."

"It is also our intent to make this vehicle a cost-effective purchase," he said. "Since its primary purpose is to carry water, we will have a conventional cab, not a custom cab. We are anticipating that this tanker will cost \$275,000."

Carrier will put in a warrant article asking for the appropriation of \$275,000 to acquire a tanker that will be funded by a FEMA grant in the amount of \$261,250, and further to authorize the use of Fire Department Capital

Reserve Funds in the amount of \$13,750 for this purpose. The article will also say, "If additional funds are necessary, the Board of Selectmen is authorized to act as agents of the fund, which will allow an additional withdrawal if necessary to fully fund the vehicle."

Carrier said, "If this article is passed, it will have zero tax impact."

In addition to seeking the FEMA grant for the new tanker, Carrier plans to put in a second article that asks voters to approve using additional funds from the Department's Capital Reserve Equipment Fund. The total amount would be \$64,000, to cover \$39,000 to purchase and upgrade the department's communica-

tions equipment and \$25,000 to replace the fire department's cardiac monitor/defibrillator.

"Again, if this second article passes, it will have zero tax impact," he said. "The Department's Capital Reserve Equipment Fund as of the 2010 Town Report has a balance of \$255,663. I am asking the voters to authorize the use of a total of \$77,750 for the tanker, the communications equipment and the cardiac monitor, leaving a balance of \$177,913 in the Department's Capital Reserve Equipment Fund."

Carrier wasn't sure when he would hear about the FEMA grant for the tanker, but said he hopes it would be before Town Meeting.

Passerby Alerts Crews to House Fire in Hampstead

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD - A noon-time fire Friday on Stage Road could have had a very different outcome if it had happened at midnight, fire officials said.

Hampstead Fire Department Incident Commander Capt. Will Warnock said the home's fire detectors were not working. A passerby noticed smoke in the area of the home and reported it at the Atkinson Fire Department, which alerted the Hampstead Fire Department, Warnock said. The fire was at a home owned by Amy Marcello, 212 Stage Road, Hampstead.

"When we arrived, the homeowner didn't know the house was on fire, but it had been burning for sometime," Warnock said. "When our truck arrived on scene, we found a chimney fire that had spread out of the chimney into the wall of the

house, and it was perhaps 10 to 20 minutes away from being a whole structure fire. Firefighters were able to extinguish the fire but in the process, had to completely remove the chimney."

Warnock said the firefighters removed several windows on the second floor but replaced them once the fire was extinguished. The fire from the woodstove had burned through the clay chimney liner and the metal liner and

crept into the wall.

"If this fire had happened at midnight, the outcome might well have been very different, without the fire detectors to alert the homeowner to the fire," he said. "We want to take this opportunity to remind everyone to make sure that their fire detectors are in good working condition because they do save lives."

The Plaistow and Sandown Fire departments provided station coverage and

Danville, Salem and Derry Fire departments assisted Hampstead at the scene, Warnock said.



Firefighters fight a stubborn chimney fire at a home on Stage Road in Hampstead Friday just after noon. The fire started in a woodstove and had burned through the chimney and spread into the house's wall.

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Editorial

Get Surfing

We'd like to point out a website that probably doesn't get as much use as it should.

Visit: www.gencourt.state.nh.us/ and check out the "State Legislation Dash Board. Then go to "Advanced Bill Search: and plug in one of your legislators under "Sponsor." It has a pull-down menu of legislators. Then click on "Submit," and you'll find the bills a legislator is sponsoring or co-sponsoring.

That provides you with a world of interesting information. And with multiple legislators for our towns, we can learn how every one is representing their constituents, where their interests lie, and on what statewide issues they are directing their focus.

Are they particularly interested in social issues? In changing how town governments take care of business? In directing the state to take a stance on national issues?

Is your legislator representing you? This site offers a way to find out.

If you find a bill that intrigues you, upsets you, or delights you, you can attend a hearing on it and speak your mind. That puts an added meaning to "citizen legislature." And, as always, you can call or otherwise contact your legislators and let them know how

you feel about what they are making their agenda. You can use that information and their comments when the time comes for reelection.

And if you have a particular interest in seeing New Hampshire government move in a specific direction on an issue, and you don't find a bill on that topic, that's something to discuss with your legislators as well.

Of course, all that requires some personal involvement and action. That's what a democracy is all about, and if you're into looking for a New Year's resolution, taking the time and effort to be involved and to have your say in your state government is a great resolution to make.

These days, many of us fill some of our spare time by "relaxing" at the computer and surfing various websites. We encourage you to make the General Court website one of your favorites, and to check it regularly. At this newspaper, we try to bring to your attention bills of interest in the state, but we aren't going to be able to hit all of them.

That information, however, is at your fingertips at the keyboard or the touch screen.

And the more all of us know about what our legislators are doing, the better.

Letters

Noble But Chimerical Goal

To the editor,
Hampstead Budget Committee member Matt Murphy has been preaching for some time that if we reduce the town and school budgets by \$1 million each, we'll have the \$2 million needed to build the Police Station in one year, without a bond or raising additional taxes. After all, he reasons, town and school taxes come out of the same taxpayers' pockets.

While his heart is in the right place, his methodology is totally wrong: state law and practical reality stop it dead on its tracks. This is why.

The town and school district are, by law, two separate political corporations, ergo, two separate budgets, good for one fiscal year. The voters approve the bottom line of each budget in March. Those monies must be spent for school or town purposes only, that is, the town cannot lay claim to funds approved for the school or vice versa.

Any monies not spent at the end of the fiscal year (Dec. 31 of the current calendar year for the Town, June 30 of the following calendar year for the School) must be returned to the general fund - think surplus.

Surplus funds returned to the general fund can't be used nilly willy for any purpose. They are returned to the taxpayers annually, in October, when the surplus amount is deducted from the following year's appropriation, thereby reducing the amount that has to be raised through taxes. No problem so far.

This is where Matt's idea runs off the tracks. If we were to reduce the proposed town and school budgets by \$1 million each - as he proposes - the amount of taxes

collected that year would certainly be \$2 million less than the originally proposed combined budgets.

There is one big problem: those \$2 million are non-existent because they were never part of the actual amount approved by the voters in March or collected by the Selectmen for that year. That money is still in taxpayers' pockets, not in the town general fund - and Matt's method falls apart.

Similarly, reducing the current budgets is legally impossible because the voters cannot retroactively reduce and/or reallocate budget amounts previously approved at the annual town or school meetings.

While his idea sounds attractive, it's just a pipe dream. Nevertheless, I commend and encourage Matt to continue fighting for the taxpayers and looking for ways to reduce taxes.

Moreover, he must be very careful of what he says because, as a public official, his utterances are given a lot of credence by the taxpayers. His ideas must be lawful and practical, instead of chimerical.

Jorge Mesa-Tejada
Hampstead
Noble Goal, Chimerical Idea

Hampstead Police Station

To the editor:

I recently sent a Letter to the Editor commenting on the inopportune time the Hampstead Board of Selectmen and its Police Building Committee have chosen to ask the hard-pressed taxpayers of Hampstead to foot the bill for a new police station. In a brief but somewhat misleading rebuttal by the Committee Chairman, it is emphasized that my claim of costs to construct the new

facility was "a worst example of wrong information" and contained "several incorrect statements" (I only see the issue over what the real final costs will be as the bone of contention), and I was then urged to revert to the building committee's website for more factual information.

Well, lo and behold, I did indeed visit the website as suggested and aside from a litany of reasons why the old station is inadequate (same story used in the previously defeated warrant articles presented for this project), there is no information whatsoever as regards what the finished costs of the new station will be, or even a sound guesstimate for taxpayers to consider - something in the nature of "stay tuned" is all that appears.

While I agree that the old station may be inadequate, in this time of decreasing property values and increasing taxes, it would be more in line with responsible governing, and something that makes far more sense in this current environment, to make reasonable repairs to the old station until such time as the residents of Hampstead are not taxed into oblivion.

Simply because the Committee thinks low bond interest rates and the promise of "creating local job opportunities," a familiar cry over the past three years, must certainly be enough to justify increasing taxes, that is little solace to families struggling to feed their families and stay in their homes.

Has anyone looked at foreclosure rates, the ever-increasing number of residents that are having to turn to food pantries to get by and the drain on social service agencies called on to help residents heat their homes?

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Tri-Town Times welcomes letters on topics of local interest, and prints as many letters as possible. Please e-mail your letters to the Tri-Town Times at tri-towntimes@nutpub.net. All letters must include the writer's name, address and phone number for verification if needed; name and town of residence will be printed. The Tri-Town Times reserves the right to reject or edit letters for content and length, and anonymous letters will not be printed.

No Changes Made to Chester School Budget Proposal

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

CHESTER - Much of the discussion at the combined school board and budget committee meeting centered on answering budget questions, but at the end of the meeting, no changes were made to the proposal.

On Wednesday Dec. 28, the school board met with the budget committee to review the 2012-2013 budget proposal. The two groups have been communicating about the numbers since the budget committee received the proposal earlier in December, and many of their questions had already been answered.

Clarifications were sought on everything from teaching positions to the annual report, from software upgrades to

special education costs. Discussed were how much revenue is expected from use of the gym by outside groups, what to do with the portable kindergarten classrooms as their lease runs out, and the technology budget.

Committee member Chuck Heuer commented on the condensed budget book received. Though Heuer questioned whether there was less information in the current version, school board members and district administration assured him that most of what he was seeing were the results of efforts not to repeat information.

Budget committee chair Rhonda Lamphere asked Heuer to point out specifics where more information was needed, but was not in favor of asking the school board to change the way it

presented the information.

School board chair Royal Richardson said the book was thinner by design, and the school board was not looking to hold back information, but to skip redundancies.

Heuer also questioned the technology budget and wondered whether there was enough spending to prevent the school from having to "catch up" eventually with a considerable amount of spending.

The technology line has increased this year, due to cuts made in the line last year and a desire to stay up on the technology plan, but school board members assured the committee that they kept an eye on that area and weren't forecasting any large expenditures.

Committee member Steve D'Angelo wondered how the school determined what

sort of technology would be purchased, given the rapidly changing nature of that sector. He asked if the school board was concerned whether the kinds of technology purchased and taught now would ultimately be useless when the kids left school.

Richardson said the school kept an eye on things and while wanting to keep the kids up to date, didn't want to jump into the wrong technology platform by mass purchasing.

The technology discussion led to a talk about the school's designation as a School In Need of Improvement (SINI) by the state Department of Education (DOE) on the strength of the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) tests.

The school board and administration have discussed the merits of the NECAP program and largely determined it is seriously flawed, a sentiment held by

educators across the state.

D'Angelo asked whether the SINI issue could be fixed with more spending, something the school board and administration did not think was possible, calling the program "a flawed exercise" that did not give the school or community a good idea of how well Chester's students were performing.

NECAP tests are administered to grades three through eight and 11 as part of the DOE's adherence to the federal No Child Left Behind Act. The tests aim to provide a way to evaluate school and student performance in mathematics, reading, writing and science according to pre-determined frameworks.

Chester Academy, like 70 percent of New Hampshire schools, has missed NECAP's Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) goals, thus labeling it a SINI. Richardson noted other standard-

ized tests and high school and college performance as metrics that gave the school board comfort when determining how well Chester Academy is preparing its students for a life outside of school.

Superintendent Jim Gaylord noted that by 2013-2014, all NECAP schools are expected to have 100 percent of their students (both special education and regular education) performing at a proficient level on the tests, a problem when various student abilities are graded on the same scale. Though noting that the program was on its way out, he suspected that if kept, by 2014, 100 percent of schools would be labeled SINIs.

More meetings between the two groups will likely occur. The public hearing on the budget is scheduled for Jan. 17.

The proposal as presented to the budget committee totals \$11,866,824.

Letters

continued from page 4

I too would love to take advantage of the lowest mortgage rates in history so I can move to or build a larger house that will serve my needs for many decades as well, but it simply is not an economic reality to do so at this time. I for one would rather see the monies needed just to prepare the plans for this facility used to make whatever necessary repairs are deemed urgent for the old facility, and wait for the economy to improve before taxes are increased again to build a new one - it's called tightening one's belt.

I'll eat my words regarding what I believe will inevitably be a \$2 million price tag when all the costs for a finished, functioning new facility are presented to the taxpayers actually turn out to be far lower, as the Committee Chairman intimates. For now, I still plan to vote no on the warrant article, as my taxes are high enough, regardless of what the project cost is.

Paul Reiter
East Hampstead

Response to Letter

To the editor:

The Dec. 22 edition of the Tri-Town Times included a letter from a Hampstead resident who incor-

rectly paraphrased my statements at the Dec 13 School Board meeting.

To clarify, when the Board was questioned about the administration costs within the Hampstead School District budget, I responded that the salaries of our administrators are approximately 3 percent of our budget. As a quick check, commercial businesses typically operate between 10-15 percent for administration.

Therefore, given the high expectations that we have of our administrative team (i.e. student performance, faculty professional development, budget oversight and public outreach), I believe we, as a town, are realizing high returns on our investment at a bargain price.

The School Board meetings are replayed several times on cable television and available online. I encourage everyone to utilize these resources before they disseminate inaccurate information.

Greg Hoppa
Hampstead School
Board member

Appreciates Newspaper

To the editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and thank the Tri-Town Times for their focus on reporting the many local events in the Town of


Sandown as well as the surrounding communities.

Some may not be aware that the Tri-Town Times is a local area homegrown newspaper. In today's world, with a challenging economy and the pressures of competing with the web and other local newspapers that are financed and influenced by large corporations and special interests, we are very fortunate to have this independent newspaper available.

Owner and publisher Deb Paul, editor Leslie O'Donnell, and local reporters Matt Rittenhouse and Penny Williams have reported fairly, honestly, and with a high level of character, integrity, and ethics in bringing us this free newspaper on a weekly basis. It is clear that this is not just a job for these individuals, but reporting the news is a life-long purpose and passion that is evident in the quality of in-depth reporting on local town politics, schools, non-profit organizations, and human interest stories.

In my opinion, no other newspaper can match their dedication to the residents of the local area communities. Through their work these individuals not only report the news, but in some respects, also bear witness to our lives.

Roger Barczak
Sandown



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Conservation Legislation Not Popular on Local Level

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD - What is a Conservation Commission and why have one?

This coming legislative session, an attempt has been mounted to strip conservation commissions of the power to carry out their duties, and Hampstead conservation officials are not pleased.

House Bill 1512 would prohibit town conservation commissions from acquiring, conveying or contracting to manage land for conservation purposes and would require the local governing body to hold a public hearing before any such activity. Furthermore, it would remove the option for a conservation fund funded by the land use change tax. A public hearing on the bill is set for Jan.

12 at 12:05 p.m. at the Legislative Office Building Room 301.

Hampstead Conservation Commission members expressed concern about the legislation, and member David Treat noted that there are other bills - HB1545 and HB1586 - that would also restrict Conservation Commission abilities to carry out their duties.

And HB1515 seeks to remove the ability for land use change tax dollars to be sent to the conservation fund. This bill has a public hearing on Jan. 17 at 10 a.m. at the Legislative Office Building Room 301.

HB1545 specifies that conservation commissions do not have the power to convey interests in real property that they receive or acquire. This bill also limits conservation commission contracts to manage inter-

ests in real property to a term of five years, rather than in perpetuity.

Still another bill tightens up the public hearing on land acquisition. HB1586:III states that when the acquisition of land or a lesser interest in land for the purposes of conservation under RSA 36-A:4 is considered, the selectmen must hold two public hearings at least 10 but not more than 14 days apart on the proposed acquisition or sale; provided, however, upon the written petition of 50 registered voters presented to the selectmen prior to the selectmen's vote, according to the provisions of RSA 39:3, the proposed acquisition or sale be inserted as an article in the warrant for the town meeting. The selectmen's vote would be required to take place no sooner than seven days nor

later than 14 days after the second public hearing.

Treat said, "HB1512 in particular moves much of the ConsCom responsibility for acquiring and managing conservation land to the Board of Selectmen. By requiring a public hearing prior to contracting to manage any land for conservation purposes, it adds a hurdle to our ability to carry out any project to improve or otherwise manage our land. By removing the funding of the land use change tax, it takes away a valuable funding source that is used across the state, and mandates a state wide approach to something that is now decided town by town.

"Our ConsCom does not want to give up our ability to procure or manage our land to the selectmen, and I suspect the selectmen do not want to take on the task either," Treat said. "I am not sure what the motivation is for these bills; perhaps someone feels that some ConsCom somewhere has overstepped their bounds."

Hampstead Conservation Commission Chairman Tim Lovell was blunt, saying should this legislation be enacted, there would be little or no point in having a Conservation Commission and he would likely resign.

"This legislation would remove all the powers that our commission has to handle the town's conservation

land," Lovell said. "We exist to manage and acquire conservation land for the town and should this pass and the local community not step forward to override it, the commission would be powerless to do anything.

"Furthermore, I can't see the Board of Selectmen having the time or inclination to do the management aspects of the Conservation Commission duties," the chairman said. "I spend time out on the conservation lands almost every day and do more in-depth management activities at least every other week. We do maintenance and upkeep of the conservation land and conservation land trails."

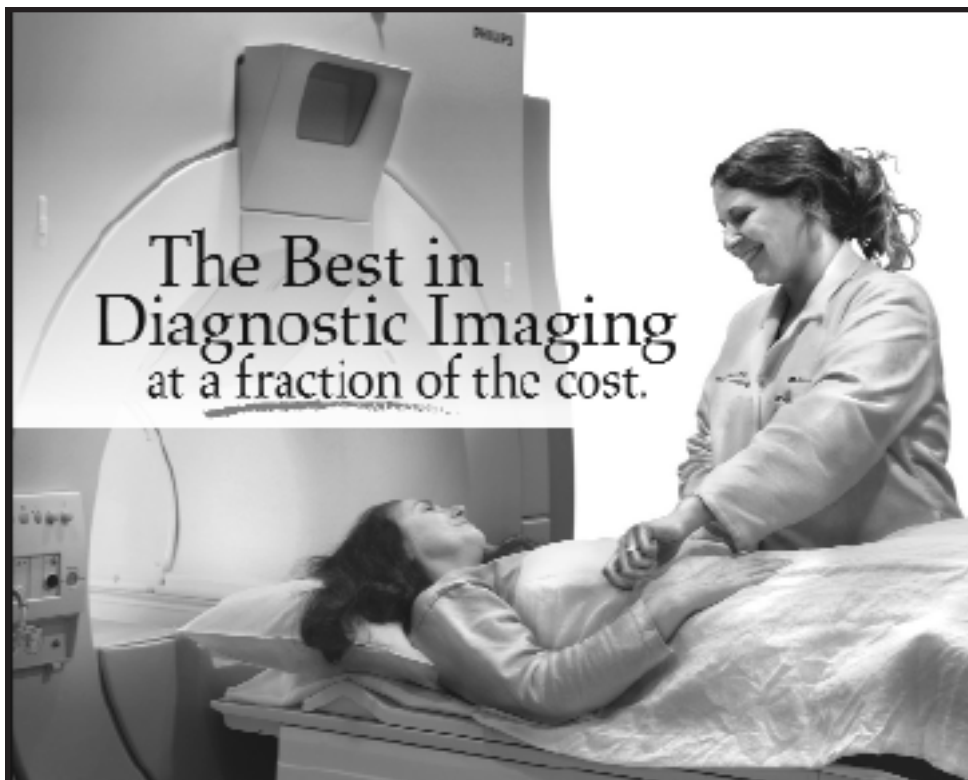
The New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions describes the duties of a municipal conservation commission as "the proper utilization and protection of the natural resources and for the protection of watershed resources of said city or town" (New Hampshire Revised

Statutes Annotated Chapter RSA 36-A). A commission is the only local board specifically charged to protect the natural resources of the municipality. Without a conservation commission, planning for this protection must be done by other boards, all of which have other primary responsibilities. A conservation commission provides a focal point within municipal government for environmental concerns. The commission may advise the planning board and other local bodies on conservation matters. It may act more directly to protect natural resources by acquiring, with the approval of the selectmen or city council, the fee (full title) or a lesser interest in land or water resources. The commission then may manage these conservation areas. If authorized by the municipal legislative body, it may manage duly designated town forests (RSA 31:110, RSA 31:111, RSA 31:112, RSA 31:113)."

Sandown

continued from page 1

Road), Megan Drive, Mill Pine Village, North Road, Osprey Circle, Patricia Circle, Rangeway Avenue, Royal Range Road, Sargent Road, Sawmill Ridge, Scott Lane, Sleeper Lane, Stagecoach Drive, Timber Trail, Treaty Court, William Street, Woodbury Lane and Wyman Circle.



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Fire and Highway Budgets Get Scrutiny in Chester

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

CHESTER - Two of the largest town budgets were reviewed briefly by the board of selectmen and department heads, and while the fire department shows just about level spending on the line items in its control, the highway department is showing about 5 percent worth of increases to current year appropriations.

Fire chief Rich Antoine presented his budget to the selectmen at their Thursday, Dec. 29, meeting, noting that aside from salaries, which are in the hands of the selectmen, his budget shows a decrease in spending of about \$81, from \$116,635.40 to \$116,553.42.

Antoine noted that con-

tractual increases were absorbed in other areas of the budget, while he level funded others.

The selectmen had a few questions on the budget, but changed nothing by the end of the meeting. Questions centered on the repair and maintenance lines and why they came in level funded, considering the department's fleet is much newer this year than last. Other discussions focused on the increases in some lines, such as the administrative assistant line.

Antoine said the cost illustrated in that line represents what the town is actually paying that position, noting that in past years the line was reduced and funding had to be shifted around within the budget to keep the position at its approved

30 hours. The position is paid \$9.50 an hour.

Selectmen agreed with budgeting real costs in the lines.

The highway budget is showing about \$28,000 in increases from the current year's appropriations of \$582,077.

Road agent Mike Oleson

explained the increases. The road agent line is up because it is already overspent. Oleson justified the higher number with the calls for service he's getting that he said can't be ignored. The contract services line is doubled to cover spending provided to the town through grants, a number

that will be offset in the revenue side.

The equipment repair line has been reduced in light of the new truck voters approved for purchase at last Town Meeting. The plow line is up to cover new roads, along with the salt line. Hired equipment and cold patch lines are up

because roadwork keeps increasing, said Oleson.

Oleson also noted his desire to bring a roadwork bond article at Town Meeting (see related story page 1).

Also reviewed Thursday were the ambulance, forest fire and fireworks budgets.



PERSISTENCE PAYS Sandown 15-year-old David Augusta III bagged this nine-point buck in Massachusetts recently after facing some disappointing moments during the recently-completed archery hunting season. Hunting in gale-force winds, Augusta was able to overcome the conditions to bag his buck.

Courtesy photo

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Hampstead Library Director Glad to Return

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD - Debra Hiatt was the part-time Children's Librarian at the Hampstead Public Library from 1997 through 2000, before leaving to get more library degrees and move up the ladder. Now she is back as the Library Director, and said she is thrilled to be at the Hampstead Public Library again.

Hiatt said being a library director was her goal, and she couldn't be happier to have achieved that goal in Hampstead.

After leaving Hampstead in 2000, Hiatt landed a full-time job as the Young Adult Librarian at the Seabrook Library. She continued her academic pursuits and received a degree from the University of Rhode Island in 2005 while working at Seabrook. She called her experience at Seabrook "incredible," largely because of the diversity in the population.

"There were a lot of young adults that just hung out at the library, and there were some really tough kids among them," she said. "Since they hung out there, I decided to befriend them and see if I couldn't develop some programs that would be of interest to these young people and be helpful for them. I made a conscious effort always to wear a suit and be very professionally dressed while still reaching out to these young people."

"It worked, and I would have as many as 29 at some of the teen programs," she said. "It is the one thing that I have done that I have absolutely no question in my mind but that I made a difference in the lives of these kids."

Hiatt then took a job as Assistant Librarian at the library in Boxborough, Mass., a different direction from her previous work. She worked with administrative reports, budget cuts and library consolidation,

and successfully received a \$10,000 grant to develop a Readers Advisory Service for the library.

"At that time the Boxborough Library belonged to a consortium and I was the first member of that consortium to procure Kindles for the library, to be able to have them available to lend to our patrons," she said. "This was very exciting, and I sought out funding to procure content for the Kindles. When I left there, we had 61 titles. I then branched out and got five Nooks and a Nook Touch. By this time, I was the Interim Librarian at Boxborough and I knew then I wanted to be a library director and was actively looking for openings."

Then she spotted the Hampstead opening and jumped at it.

"This is a match made in heaven," she said. "I am truly very excited to be here. My first goal is I really want to work with and get to know the Trustees and

the staff, and to get to know the community."

She has jumped right in, attending Town Department Head meetings to familiarize herself with the staff, the problems, issues, goals and achievements in town.

"I want to put together a Long Range Committee that will work on developing a plan based on what the community needs and what the library patrons want, and then make sure the library goes in that direction," she said. "I also want to encourage staff development."

To get started, she has asked the State Library to have one of its experts present a Jan. 4 workshop in Hampstead on how to help patrons learn how to operate electronic items, both those they own as well as those the library has available for loan.

Hiatt uses her lunch period to meet with the Knitters Group. She has also joined the Spinners Group, and said her husband got her a spinning wheel for Christmas.

"I started really knitting after reading 'Knitting Out Loud' by Kathy Goldner," she said.

Hiatt is such a fan that she has invited Goldner to the library on Jan. 21 at 12:30 p.m. to give a presentation on exploring the history of knitting through stories, as well as taking a forward peek at what the future of the craft might be.



Debra Hiatt is the new Library Director at the Hampstead Public Library. She is thrilled to be back at the library, where she started her career.

Photo by Penny Williams

Hiatt and her husband have three children, and she admits that she has a plethora of hobbies - the biggest is running.

"I love to run marathons," she said. "I run at least one marathon every year and I have one scheduled for February."

She is also the vice president of the Educational Toastmasters International as well as being a member of several other clubs.

Hiatt can't say enough good things about the Hampstead Library. She is thrilled that her predecessor, Peggy Thrasher, moved the library forward technologically and that the library has so much to offer its patrons.

"I like to work at the front desk some of the time because that gives me the opportunity to meet the patrons and for them to get to meet and talk to me," she

said. "The entire community has been extraordinarily warm and welcoming. Over the years I had come back here from time to time when some of the staff I worked with retired, so I have stayed in touch. I am a hands-on kind of person and I make it a point to meet with the seniors for a while on Thursday mornings. I welcome people stopping by my office if I am not at the front desk, and want people to know I am always available to talk to or help them if I can."

Hiatt said that one of the things that makes the Hampstead Public Library such an exceptional library is its staff.

"This library has an absolutely phenomenal staff, and I am thrilled to be working with them," she concluded.

Presidential Primary Jan. 10

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD - Voters are reminded that New Hampshire's first-in-the-nation Presidential Primary takes place Jan. 10.

Hampstead polls will

open at 8 a.m. at the Hampstead Middle School gym on School Street and remain open until 8 p.m. Residents are encouraged to come out and vote.

The New Hampshire primary is the first primary election held in the United

States and the second step following the Iowa Caucuses in choosing the Democratic and Republican nominees for the presidency.

Sample Presidential ballots are available by going to <http://www.sos.nh.gov/>.

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HMS Students Help Restock St. Anne's Food Pantry

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD – The St. Anne's Ecumenical Food Pantry stripped its shelves of toiletries – even though the St. Anne's Parish CCD students collected plenty of the needed items – in order to make sure everyone who requested assistance received a bag of toiletries for Christmas. The need after the Food Pantry distributed baskets for Thanksgiving and Christmas was not lost on Hampstead Middle School eighth grade students.

Jennifer Howard, eighth grade teacher at HMS, following a tradition of having students do something for others rather than giving their teachers gifts at

Christmas, coordinated a campaign to collect toiletries so that come January, St. Anne's Food Pantry shelves would be filled again and ready to help those in need.

The entire eighth grade, for the three weeks leading up to the Christmas holiday, worked at collecting toiletries for the Food Pantry. The students sought help from their parents, but many also went out into the community to collect the needed items.

Dentists were tapped for dental-related samples, for example.

In all, the students collected 677 items. That figure actually amounts to many more individual items because it included boxes of from three to 10 items.

Ernie and Fran Roseneau of the Food Pantry were set to pick up the collection on Jan. 3.

"It blows my mind what comes in for donations," Howard said. "We have 90 bottles of shampoo, for example. We have received a really nice variety and a good mix of items this year, and the amount of items the kids have collected is phenomenal."

Howard and the other eighth grade teachers use the collection as one way of helping their students understand the idea of giving back to their community. The students embrace the opportunity and Howard said that is what it is all about at this time of the year.



Jake Hudgins, Tyler Kelley, Bryan Puig, Ashley Cove, Kristen Crowell, Amanda Thomas and Thomas Wolenski are among the Hampstead Middle School eighth graders who worked on a campaign to collect toiletries to restock St. Anne's Ecumenical Food Pantry after Christmas. The students collected almost 700 items.

Photo by Penny Williams

Central School Ski Club Ready to Hit the Slopes

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD – The Hampstead Ski Club is in its second year and is ready to go - all that's missing is the snow.

The club was popular last year, and the three volunteers who ran it signed up to run it again this year, while the Hampstead Central School students couldn't wait to get on the approved list.

Angie Ingraham, physical education teacher at Central; Michael Terrile, Central art teacher; and parent and Parent Teacher Association (PTA) volun-

teer Julie Ahern combine forces to organize and coordinate the school-sponsored Hampstead Ski Club.

The club uses the McIntyre Ski Slope in Manchester, and plans call for the first outing to take place on Thursday, Jan. 5 - if there is snow.

McIntyre, like many of the ski slopes in southern New Hampshire, is facing a scarcity of the white stuff. Cold nighttime temperatures have allowed snow making to take place, but the weather has not been cooperating, sending warm days and rain to ruin the hard work the snow guns have been doing.

"We had an overwhelming amount of children applying for the club," Ingraham said. "But we made it work so everyone could participate. We have 55 third and fourth grade students and 17 siblings or other students who will be skiing this year."

The kids leave from the school by bus and hit the slopes in less than an hour. They ski for two hours, leave the hill by 6:30 p.m., and return to the school by 7:30 p.m.

"We are extremely fortunate to have over 25 parent volunteers helping us with rentals, skiing, supervising and transporting equipment when we reach the mountain," Ingraham said.

Last year Terrile, a ski enthusiast, said that being a part of the ski club was "wicked fun," and he is excited to be taking part again this year.

"Angie and Julie have put hours into making this program a reality," he said. "I have to commend them

for being so well organized and for bringing this awesome opportunity to the third and fourth grade students."

According to Ingraham, about 25 students will be taking lessons and skiing or snowboarding for the first time. "The rest already know how to either ski or snowboard or both," she said.

The Hampstead Ski Club offers an after school program designed to foster

a lifelong appreciation of skiing and snowboarding that can be enjoyed with family and friends of all ages.

"We strive to offer skiers a fun skiing experience and a positive learning environment," Ingraham said, "We are fortunate to have a supportive administration that encourages and supports physical activity for our Hampstead children, in addition to the parental support."

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Laws of Motion Get Hands-On Demo

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD – Dennis Morrison is a Hampstead resident and the parent of two children who attended the local schools. He makes an annual visit to the seventh grade at Hampstead Middle School to demonstrate Newton's Three Laws of Motion - touching on demonstrations that focus on light and sound, electricity and magnetism, simple machines, and chemistry.

Morrison, who works

for Raytheon, is often accompanied by his son Daniel, a college student whose undergraduate major is Aeronautical Engineering. Daniel attended Hampstead Middle School and has been assisting his father with his science demonstrations for many years.

Newton's Three Laws of Motion are: The Law of Inertia - things will remain at rest or in motion unless or until acted upon; The Law of Acceleration - the heavier the object, the more force is required to move it

the same distance as a lighter object; and For every action an equal and opposite reaction exists, i.e., when a ball hits another ball, the second ball pushes back in the opposite direction with equal force.

Morrison used a large knife and an apple, and a student wearing a metal hard hat, to demonstrate Newton's First Law of Motion about inertia.

He smacked the apple with the knife, where it stuck. Morrison, who was standing with the knife

and attached apple right over the head of the student wearing the hard hat, applied a blow with a mallet to the knife, thus cutting through the apple, and the pieces fell on the hard hat.

Morrison's demonstrations give the laws of motion new meaning for many of the students. His visual, hands-on way of learning is popular with the teachers and the students, and they look forward to his annual visit.



Dennis Morrison visited the Hampstead Middle School seventh grade just before the holidays and gave students a new way to look at and better understanding of Newton's Three Laws of Motion. Photo by Penny Williams



PUBLISHER TO PUBLISHER

Forbes Magazine chairman and editor-in-chief Steve Forbes, a former Republican Presidential candidate, paid a visit to Nutfield Publishing's Londonderry office last week. He was in the area to speak at a Derry Republican Committee forum in support of Presidential candidate Rick Perry. He is pictured talking with Nutfield Publisher Debra Paul, with reporter Benjamin C. Klein at center. Forbes said he sees a positive future for weekly newspapers. Nutfield Publishing produces the Tri-Town Times, Londonderry Times and Nutfield News.

Photo by Chris Paul

Bond

continued from page 1

but didn't vote, or misunderstood the plan he was presenting.

"We're just running out of time," said Oleson. "I can only present what I think we need to do."

Chair Steph Landau said that with bond rates what they were, it might make more sense to take out \$10 million or \$12 million over a period of 10 years to make a good dent in the town's road repair needs.

Landau called the plan Oleson presented "excellent" but said that it included just the highest priorities. He noted that it didn't include those roads started but not completed with the last road bond (facilitated by previous road agent Rob Brown) and suggested that the town also complete

those streets, such as Fremont and Lane Roads.

Harantis Lake Road was also recognized as an oft used road in bad need of repair.

"If we're going to do it, we should do it properly," said Landau.

Landau's plan included fronting the substantial sum and then making sure the town stuck to a road work plan in subsequent years, regardless of whether the selectmen or road agent remained in their positions.

Oleson said that if the town agreed to fund the work, he would stay on until the project was complete - if the town would have him, and that he was not a fan of finishing a road halfway and then moving on to another.

Selectman Jack Cannon also gave his support to paying for the work.

"I don't know any other

way to skin the cat on these roads," said Cannon. "We need to start doing road work, we can't do a couple hundred thousand a year. It's just not going to work. There are roads in this town, drive around, they're the next Harantis Lake and East Derry. It's a disaster."

Oleson noted that additional roads would be added to the plan only if the money were approved, because after five years of asking contractors to bid on projects that the town didn't fund, he didn't have an appetite for asking them to bid again without proof that there was a chance they'd get some work.

The board discussed various scenarios to fund the work, but did not decide on anything Thursday. They were looking for the number of road miles and costs before they started to model a plan for Town Meeting.

Primary Jan. 10 in Sandown

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

SANDOWN- To vote in Sandown for the Presidential Primary, polls will be open on Jan. 10 from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. at Town Hall.

Town clerk Michelle

Short said an average number of ballots for both parties arrived from the Secretary of State - 44 Democrat ballots and 1,001 Republican ballots.

For the 2010 primary, 739 voters came out, with 231 Republican ballots cast

and 26 Democratic ballots.

For the last Presidential Primary, 2,194 voters came out, with 1,189 voting Republican and 1,005 voting Democrat.

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Hampstead Seniors Visit Pinkerton's Freshman Building

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD - Hampstead seniors meet at the Hampstead Public Library on Thursdays from 9 a.m. until noon, where they visit, enjoy goodies and coffee, read the library's newspapers and talk with coordinators and library staff. Some Thursdays they have speakers. and Library Director Debra Hiett makes a point of coming up to visit with them.

A couple of weeks before Christmas, the seniors did something different - they car pooled and with Kim Guest, Emily Reschberger and Jaye Dimando, coordinators of the Seniors Program, traveled to Derry to visit the new Pinkerton

Academy Freshman Building. They took a tour of the building and were treated to lunch at the Astro Café, which will be opening to the public in 2012.

The Astro Café is one of the new aspects of the Center for Career and Technical Education (CTE). It is a fully equipped restaurant and kitchen with a chef in charge. In the first of two full-year Culinary Arts courses at Pinkerton, students will develop skills in preparing a variety of foods for a full service restaurant and catered events. The food will include appetizers, soups, salads, salad dressings, sandwiches, entrees and desserts. Students will be required to participate in a minimum of six catered functions.

In the second year, students will run all aspects of a full-service restaurant, both front and back of the house. Front of the house positions will include host/hostess, wait staff, and cashier. Back of the house positions will include prep cook, line cook, expeditor, sous chef, and pastry chef.

Hampstead seniors Dottie MacFarland and Christine Casarone said it was a wonderful trip. They found the building was exciting, and the tour gave the seniors a sense of the learning that was taking place. Tracy Untiet, assistant director of Pinkerton's CTE program, conducted the tour and coordinated the luncheon. The state-of-the-art technology and video studio and the new Culinary Arts area



Dottie MacFarland and Christine Casarone, members of the Hampstead Seniors, display a photo of the Pinkerton Academy students who prepared and served a meal for the seniors when the group visited the Freshman Building recently.

Photo by Penny Williams

were especially impressive, the group said.

Casarone said she was impressed with the students.

"The students were so well behaved and very polite," she said. "The group that cooked and served the luncheon were

friendly and very pleasant. It was a really nice visit."

"The students did a really good job and it was a delicious chicken meal that they served us," MacFarland said. "They not only cooked the meal but served it as well. It was a very nice experience."

The students prepared and served the seniors potato and leek soup, ricotta and herb stuffed chicken, saffron rice, and steamed vegetables, along with dinner rolls, coffee, tea, and peach cobbler.

The seniors who went on the trip said it was fun to get out and do something different. MacFarland added that it was nice to be able to see what the Hampstead residents' tax dollars had been used for - Hampstead tuitions its high school students to Pinkerton - and the others agreed.

Driver Attacks First Responders After Car Crash

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

CHESTER - An accident on Friday, Dec. 30, on Chester Street saw the intoxicated driver of one of the vehicles involved attack a passerby, a police officer and the fire chief.

At 8:28 p.m., officers and rescue personnel responded to Chester Street not far from its intersection

with Candia Road.

Shortly after his arrival at the crash scene, Chester police officer Will Sable was attacked by the driver of one of the vehicles, Cindy Lou Groleau, 48, of Manchester, following an assault on one of the witnesses at the scene.

While Sable was attempting to control the woman, fire chief Rich Antoine stepped in to assist

with the takedown and was also assaulted.

Groleau, who was transported to Parkland Medical Center in Derry for blood tests, is facing two charges of simple assault, and charges for driving while intoxicated and resisting arrest.

Police said no injuries were reported from the altercations.

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TRI-TOWN HAPPENINGS

CHESTER

Read for Monarchs Tickets

Children who are 12 years old and under can earn a free ticket to a Manchester Monarchs Sunday home game by reading five books and getting a voucher for a home game ticket. To start, get an official reading log from the Chester Public Library at 3 Chester St. Stop by the library for game dates and more information, or call 887-3404.

Storytimes

Storytimes at Chester Public Library are Tuesdays at 11:15 a.m. They are geared for children ages 3 to 5, and Mr. Tim will read stories and teach crafts. The Library is at 3 Chester St., next to the Post Office. For more information, call 887-3404.

Child Find

The Chester School District will hold Child Find clinics at Chester Academy on March 15, 2012, from 12:30 to 3 p.m. The purpose of Child Find is to screen the developmental skills of children between the ages of 3 to 6 (those not enrolled in first grade) who may be in need of special education services. The screenings are completed by school personnel and address motor skills, speech and language, vision, hearing, and pre-academics. If you think your child may have difficulties or a delay in any of these areas, call 887-3621, ext. 146 to set up an appointment. Appointments are required. This service is free and is open to all Chester residents. All results are confidential.

Co-ed Volleyball

Chester Recreation is offering free adult co-ed pickup volleyball on Wednesdays at 8 p.m. at the Chester Multi-purpose room. Call the Recreation Department for more information at 887-5773 or e-mail: sharon@chesternhrec.org

Lions Collection

The Chester Lions Club is partnering with The Warmth from the Millyard project to collect new mittens, hats, socks and scarves for children and adults. New or used outerwear such as jackets, fleece tops and ski pants, as well as blankets,

are also accepted. Items will be donated to local charities. The collection continues until Jan. 15, and collection boxes are at the Town Offices and the Wason Pond Community Center.

Book Discussion

The Chester Public Library Book Discussion Group meets every third Tuesday of the month at 1 p.m. at the Library Meeting Room. The Jan. 17 discussion will be about "A Single Thread" by Marie Bostwick. Extra copies are available at the Library to cardholders. For more information, contact the Library at 887-3404.

HAMPSTEAD

Computer Tutoring

The Hampstead Public Library's computer tutor for adults is available Mondays from 3 to 5 p.m. He can help people in need of assistance with computers, nooks, iPods, etc. Call the library at 329-6411 to reserve a half-hour appointment.

Read for Monarchs

The Manchester Monarchs are again sponsoring the "You Read! You Score!" program. If a child age 12 or under reads five books, he or she earns a free ticket to any Sunday Monarchs' home game this season. Forms are available at the Hampstead Public Library. Fill one out with the book titles and submit it to a librarian. In return, the child will receive a voucher to get a free Monarchs' ticket plus dollars off accompanying adult tickets.

Book Discussions

On Jan. 19 at 1 p.m., the Hampstead Public Library's Third Thursday Book Group will discuss "Cutting for Stone" by Abraham Verghese. On Jan. 23 at 7 p.m., the Library's NonFiction Book Group will discuss "Twelve by Twelve: A One-Room Cabin off the Grid and Beyond the American Dream" by William Powers. This date is a change to the normal schedule for this group. Copies of both books are available at the library's front desk, and newcomers are always welcome to the discussions.

War of 1812

The Friends of the Hampstead Public Library will present historian J. Dennis Robinson in a program titled "Who Won the War of 1812?" at 7 p.m. Jan. 10 at the library. Robinson is an authority on New Hampshire history, especially the history of the country's shortest seacoast, all 17 miles of New Hampshire from Seabrook to Portsmouth. Refreshments will follow the program, and all members of the Friends are invited to remain afterward for the regular monthly meeting of the organization.

Raffle Basket

The January raffle basket offered by the Friends of the Hampstead Public Library features items from Bean-Towne in Hampstead - two kinds of Bean-Towne's coffee, English breakfast tea and two handmade pottery mugs, along with chocolate-covered espresso beans and \$25 in Bean-Towne's gift coins. Tickets for the basket are \$1 each or six for \$5, and are available at the front desk of the library. The winning ticket will be drawn at the Friends' program Jan. 10.

Baseball, Softball

Hampstead will hold sign-ups for the 2012 baseball, T-ball, and softball season on Saturdays, Jan. 14 and 21, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Tuesday, Jan. 17, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Hampstead Civic Club, next to Town Hall. Visit the HASB website www.eteamz.com/hasb for fees, league descriptions, and other information. Hampstead Association of Softball and Baseball (HASB) provides the opportunity for all youngsters in Hampstead between the ages of 5 and 16 to participate in an organized baseball and softball program. The T-Ball league is open to both boys and girls ages 5-6. Girls softball has four leagues: Farm (ages 7-8), Minor (ages 9-10), Major (ages 11-13), and Senior (ages 14-16). Boys baseball has four



SANTA PATROL Santa once again toured the streets of Chester on Christmas Eve, a decades long tradition in town that has many eagerly awaiting his arrival on their street. RJ Child drove Santa through town for the first time this year, taking over the reins from his late father, Steve Child, one of Santa's biggest supporters. Members of the "Santa Patrol" are, front row, Richard Bellemore and Eric Bellemore; middle row, Harry Gardner, RJ Child, Lori Child and Aaron Mansur; and in back, Old Saint Nick.

Photo courtesy of William Bellemore.

leagues, Farm (ages 7-8), Triple A (ages 9-10), Little League (ages 9-12), and Babe Ruth (ages 13-16). For questions, or if unable to attend a registration, call John Ward at 329-1104.

Island Pond Baptist Church

On Thursday, Jan. 19, Island Pond Baptist Church, 26 North Salem Road hosts Life Line Screening, which will scan for potential health problems related to blocked arteries, abdominal aortic aneurysms and irregular heartbeat. Pre-registration is required at 1-800-324-1851 or: www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners. For more information, visit the church at: www.islandpondbc.org or call the church office at 329-5959.

Jewelry Sale

A Jewelry Sale will be held on Thursday, Jan. 12; Friday, Jan. 13; and Saturday, Jan. 14, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at East Hampstead Union Church, 225 East Main St. (Route 121A), just south of Route 111. A diverse selection of costume, estate and craft jewelry, as well as other items of interest, will be sold. Proceeds benefit the Operating Fund. For more informa-

tion, call 378-0683.

Holiday Closure

The Hampstead Public Library will be closed Monday, Jan. 16, in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

Knitting Stories

On Saturday, Jan. 21, at 12:30 p.m., the Hampstead Public Library welcomes Kathy Goldner, founder of the audiobook company Knitting Out Loud, for a free, hour-long talk about "The Stories of Knitting." Her presentation will feature photographs, knitted items and antiques. Its themes include: lessons from grandmothers, the courage of women, and the importance to culture of domesticity. The talk will explore the history of knitting and will look at its future. Snow date is Saturday, Feb. 18, at 12:30 p.m. For questions, call the Hampstead Library at 329-6411.

Books for Breakfast

Books for Breakfast at the Hampstead Public Library is Saturday, Jan. 7, from 9 to 11 a.m., with a freshly made breakfast sandwich with hot cocoa, coffee or tea, craft supplies and books to share. Everyone who attends will be

entered in a raffle to win movie passes to the movie theater in Derry.

Paws to Read

Johnny Claude the listener dog will be at the Hampstead Public Library on Monday, Jan. 9, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. He is a certified therapy dog who loves to listen to kids read, tell stories, or act out a book. Reserve a 15-minute session with Johnny Claude by signing up your child at the library's front desk or calling the library at 329-6411. Adults are also welcome to visit with Johnny Claude also.

Storytime Resumes

Storytime for 3- to 5-year-olds resumes at the Hampstead Public Library Jan. 9. Storytime takes place Mondays at 10 a.m. and Thursdays at 1:30 p.m., and features books read to the youngsters and crafts.

SANDOWN

Knitting Group

Beginners to advanced knitters are invited to join the weekly knitting group on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. at the Sandown Public Library.

Boater Safety

A boater safety course hosted by the Sandown

Police Department and Department of Safety will be offered from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, April 21, at the Ed Garvey Recreation Center, 25 Pheasant Run Road. Cost is \$30 preregistered by Feb. 10, 2012 through the Sandown Police Department. For reservation and additional information, call 887-3887. Attendees will receive a boater's license upon successful completion of the class test.

Ballroom Dance

Sandown Parks and Recreation offers a class in Ballroom Dance with instructors Bill and Maria Vanderhoof, who bring 20 years of dance experience. Try a one hour free demonstration class at the Ed Garvey Recreation Facility on Sunday, Jan. 15, at 6 p.m. Pre-registration is required. A partner is required, and all participants must be over the age of 16. Call the recreation

office to pre-register. The Beginners Class includes an introduction to the foxtrot, rumba, swing and meringue. The on-going Intermediate Class adds the waltz, tango and cha cha. A new six-week session begins Sunday evenings, Jan. 22 - March 4. Class sessions are one hour and cover two dances per evening. Cost is \$75 per couple for Sandown residents and \$80 per couple for non-residents. The Beginner Class runs from 7:15 to 8:15 p.m., and the Intermediate Class runs from 6 to 7 p.m. Visit www.sandown.us for registration and payment information or call the recreation office at 887-1872.

Library Cookbook

The Friends of the Sandown Public Library is preparing a cookbook featuring recipes from the Sandown community. This professionally published cookbook will be dedicated to the memory

of Hazel Marlow, a longtime Friend of the Sandown Library. The Friends invite current and former community members to contribute their favorite recipes. Pick up recipe submission forms at the Sandown Public Library, or call the Library at 887-3428 for more information. Proceeds from sales of the cookbook will help to provide equipment, museum passes, and materials for the Sandown Public Library.

Preschool Library Classes

January starts a new season of Busy Bears Preschool classes at the Sandown Public Library. Openings are available for sessions held every Tuesday: one at 9:30 a.m. and one at 1 p.m. The classes are taught by Jennifer Dawley, a certified early-childhood instructor who uses stories, music, sign language, poetry, and crafts to teach creative expression, social skills, listening skills,

early literacy, and math skills. A different theme is presented each week. Register online at: www.sandownlibrary.us or by calling the library at 887-3428. The classes are free.

Saturday Movie

On Saturday, Jan. 7, at 1 p.m., children are invited to watch the PG-rated movie "Kung Fu Panda 2" at the Sandown Public Library. Children may bring snacks.

Movie & Social

The Sandown Public Library hosts the movie "Water for Elephants" on Monday, Jan. 9, at 1 p.m. Light refreshments are provided.

Holiday Closure

The Sandown Library will be closed Monday, Jan. 16, in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

REGIONAL

Interfaith Choir

The Interfaith Choir welcomes new members. Membership is free and open to anyone of at least high school age, without audition. Rehearsals resume Jan. 8. The Choir rehearses Sundays from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at St. Luke's United Methodist Church on Route 102 (Broadway) in Derry from September through April. Prior experience in a choir is not necessary. Performances are twice a year: two concerts each in December and April. Call 432-4786 for more information, or just come to a rehearsal.

Healing Service

New Creation Healing Center, in conjunction with Trinity Church and people from various area churches, is sponsoring a service of healing on Friday, Jan. 6, from 7 to 8 p.m. at New Creation's offices, 80 Route 125, Kingston. People from

various area churches will assist in praying that people are healed of their various physical and emotional ailments. For more information, call 642-3002.

Relay for Life

Jan. 17 at 6:30 p.m. is the American Cancer Society Relay for Life of Greater Derry/Londonderry kick-off event at the Searles School and Chapel in Windham. Relay for Life of Greater Derry/Londonderry, held June 22 at the Pinkerton Academy track, is an overnight team event where team members raise money for cancer research and patient support programs. Any survivor, caregiver, or anyone else touched by cancer is invited to fight back at this year's Relay For Life of Greater Derry/Londonderry. To find out more information or to RSVP for the Relay Kick-off, contact Brigit Ryan at Brigit.Ryan@cancer.org or 471-4113.

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Low Turnout Expected in Primary in Chester

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

CHESTER – Polling hours in Chester for the presidential primary on Jan. 10 are set for 7 a.m. until 7 p.m.

Each town, state and federal polling day will have those same 7 to 7 hours in Chester from now on, thanks to a decision made by the selectmen in the Fall of 2010.

Interest in the primary seems to be low, according to town clerk Barbara Gagnon. Few requests about absentee ballots have come in and the atmosphere so far seems to be less than energized. Few young people have come in to register, something common for national elections, she said.

That being said, New Hampshire Secretary of State Bill Gardner has sent about 1,800 Republican ballots and 500 Democratic ballots to town. And with just about 3,500 registered voters, that’s a lot of ballots.

The 2010 primary saw 819 voters come out. The 2008 primary attracted 413 voters, and a record for Chester, 2,738 voters, cast ballots for the 2008 general election that saw President Barack Obama elected.

Community Comes Through for Christmas Giving

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

SANDOWN - Area families that asked for a little help getting through the Christmas season received it last month with the help of their community. The Sandown Food Pantry provided the dinners and the Giving Trees organized by Arlene Bassett provided the gifts.

Forty-two families received help through the Giving Trees, firms that were set up in Sandown and Hampstead with tag ornaments indicating the wishes

of local kids for what they'd like to find under the tree. And all were provided for, said Bassett.

Bassett has been running the program for decades, and with the help of a generous community, has filled the wishes of an untold number of children and families.

Trees were set up in Sandown Town Hall, St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, Sandown North and Central Schools, Mill Pine Village and the East Hampstead Union Church. Along with the gifts indicated on the ornaments - each

child up to 15 years of age could choose two "main gifts" up to \$30 in cost and up to 10 stocking stuffers - neighbors provided cash donations, allowing Bassett to fill the tags that remained on the branches as Christmas neared.

She took the extra tags and ordered much of their contents online, and all came before Christmas, though one arrived on Christmas Eve.

Along with specified gifts, some people donated extra presents they thought might be put to good use by Bassett. One of those items,

a large framed photograph of Fenway Park, was given to a young sports fanatic on the list. It turned out to be his favorite present, Bassett said.

Bassett said she's very thankful for everyone who helped provide a Christmas morning for families that might otherwise not have had one. She's received emails and phone calls from families that received the gifts, thanking her for the effort.

All families who received gifts through the Giving Trees received a Christmas dinner from the

Sandown Food Pantry as well. Seventy-two dinners in all were given out, with either a chicken or a turkey and all the extras.

There was plenty to go around, and though some volunteers were getting a bit nervous about whether there'd be enough to fill the need, food pantry veteran Eleanor Bassett urged calm, saying Sandown always comes through for the pantry, and again she was right.

Individuals, businesses, schools and local groups all got in on the effort, providing food, holding food

drives and donating money or gift cards.

And volunteers to help organize the food and give it out were many, some of the long-time volunteers getting some time off to allow the new folks a chance to help out.

Food and donations continued to come in regularly all year, said Arlene Bassett, and people give more as the holidays come around.

"They always come through," she said about that generosity. "We don't very often go without."

Large Underage Drinking Party Found in Chester

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

CHESTER - The police are still investigating one of the largest underage drinking parties they've witnessed in years, a party that had attendees streaming out of the home left and right when the police showed up.

Police responded to a call for the party at 850 Raymond Road on Dec. 18.

Estimates are that up to 50 cars and 100 people were involved, many underage, but most of the party-goers ran out of the house and escaped into the woods or by car. Police discovered that some even forded a river on

the cold night to get out of trouble. Clothes were later found and four males were picked up in Derry wearing only boxer shorts.

One car, leaving the party in a hurry, almost collided with a Raymond Police cruiser before striking a tree head on. Four individuals were in the car at the time, and two

later complained of neck pain.

One Driving While Intoxicated arrest was made.

Fifteen people were detained from the party and 17 vehicles were towed. Police chief Bill Burke said copious amounts of alcohol, from hard liquor to beer, were confiscated from the house. Marijuana was also discovered.

Kirsten Simono, 18, of Chester, was charged with facilitating a drug or underage alcohol house party.

Raymond, Sandown and State Police assisted with the response.

Burke said the situation was out of control and dangerous for attendees, officers and the general public.

The chief noted that the officers reined in the situation to the best of their abilities, but added his disappointment over the choices those attending the party made, especially with all of the information available about the dangers of underage drinking and drunk driving.

Police

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Town Treasurer Harold Williams what the cost of that amount would be in terms of a five, 10, and 15 year bond.

"I would suggest rounding it off to \$1,500,000 and then working hard at doing whatever cost-saving we can to try and reduce the overall figure," Beaudoin said. "The figure Barker has given us is not an unreasonable number, but I wish it could have come in lower."

After some discussion, members Jon Worthen and Chris Dane both said that regardless of the cost, they were opposed to reducing

the size of the building to lower the overall cost. The rest of the committee agreed, although no vote was taken.

Beaudoin said it will be important to make the public understand that the cost of constructing a commercial building - and in this case a specialized commercial building - is not the same as building a house.

"It costs much more to build this sort of building than what it would cost to build a house of comparable size," he said. "We need to make sure that whatever figure we use is enough to build it right."

Selectman Sean Murphy attended the meeting, and asked if all the necessary

changes to the plan had been made prior to coming up with the cost figure. Stewart said Barker had not finished the final design but the plans would be available at the Jan. 13 public hearing for the bond.

Member Neil Lynch said, "I wish the number had been lower but whatever the number we decide on, it has to be a realistic number in order to get the building built right."

Member Paul Wentworth reminded the committee they had reached out for professional services and advice

because they had gone as far as the committee's collective expertise could go, and it was his opinion that the \$1,538,300 figure should be the one presented.

"The expert we chose suggests this number so I think we should go with it, but we can try to see if there are any places where it can be reduced," he said.

The committee studied the bond cost worksheet submitted by Barker and looked at where they could cut costs. Wentworth and Worthen warned them that

they had no idea what the categories included so they didn't know what they would be cutting.

The committee then unanimously approved using the number Barker had suggested, \$1,538,300, which includes a 5 percent cushion of \$62,250 to offset expected material increases that would happen after Jan. 1.

Jorge Mesa-Tejada, who was in the audience, suggested the committee sit down with the architect and

go over every line and every item that went into that final figure to ensure where reductions might be made, as well as to make sure there were no surprises about items that had not been included but would have to be put into the final cost.

The committee decided the building design group would meet with the architect and review all the figures before the Jan. 12 meeting, when Barker would be in attendance.



PUBLIC HEARING CHESTER BUDGET COMMITTEE & CHESTER SCHOOL BOARD

DATE: TUESDAY, JANUARY 17TH, 2012
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
LOCATION: CHESTER TOWN COMPLEX MEETING ROOM
84 CHESTER STREET

AGENDA

- 2012-2013 PROPOSED SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET
- OTHER WARRANT ARTICLES WITH APPROPRIATIONS

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